

# Reading the Signs: a Changing Climate in the Chesapeake

## APPENDIX A: Glossary

### Social Studies VSC terms

Culture – Learned behavior of people, which includes their belief system and languages, their social relationships, their institutions and organizations and their material goods – food, clothing, buildings, tools and machines.

Land Use – The way in which humans use the earth’s surface. Uses are classified as urban, rural, agricultural, forested, etc., with more specific sub-classifications useful for specific purposes.

Location – The position of a point on the earth’s surface expressed by means of a grid or in relation to other places.

Region – An area with one or more common characteristics or features, which give it a measure of homogeneity and make it different than surrounding areas.

Settlement Patterns – The special distribution and arrangement of human habitations, including rural and urban centers.

Thematic Map – A map representing a specific theme or topic; e.g. – population density

### Science VSC terms

Data - Collected information which can be quantitative (numerical) or qualitative (descriptive). Factual information used as a basis for reasoning, discussion, or calculation.

Environment - The physical surroundings of an organism which includes the living and nonliving components.

Estuary - A coastal body of water that connects to the oceans so that fresh water from a river mixes with saltwater from the oceans, such as in the Chesapeake Bay.

Food chain - The feeding relationships of species that transfer energy through the organisms in a community.

Habitat - The local environment in which a specified organism, population, or species lives, characterized by physical and chemical features, and the presence of certain other species.

Natural resource - Something from the natural environment (water, air, trees, fuels) that is used to meet one's needs and wants.

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pH scale - Scale ranging from 0-14, used to describe how acidic (0) or basic (14) a substance is. The pH is the measure of the hydrogen ion concentration in a solution.

Pollution - Human and natural contamination of the environment by chemicals or heat energy to the extent that existing habitats are threatened or populations of organisms are endangered.

Population - A group of organisms of the same species that live in the same area at the same time.

Salinity - The concentration of dissolved salts (usually sodium chloride) in a body of water.

Species - Organisms whose members are alike and successfully reproduce among themselves.

Temperature - The measure of the average energy of motion of the particles of a substance.

### **Archaeology Terms**

Archaeology – the study of the past through the systematic recovery and analysis of material remains.

Artifact – an object that has been made, used and/or changed by humans.

Context – the location and associations of an artifact or group of artifacts on an archaeological site.

Midden – trash deposits resulting from human activities. Shell middens, composed of mostly discarded shells and artifacts, are usually located along shorelines.

Stratigraphy – a site's physical structure produced by the deposition of geological and/or cultural sediments into layers or strata.